

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12 and 16-20 are pending. Claims 6, 11, 13-15 and 21-25 have been canceled. Claims 26 and 27 have been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was submitted on January 22, 2003 and received in the PTO on January 27, 2003. Since the IDS was received in the PTO after the mailing date of the office action, a request to consider the IDS together with the appropriate fee accompany this amendment. If the IDS is not in the PTO file when the examiner considers this amendment, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that a duplicate copy may be provided.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. Claim 19 has been amended in the manner suggested by the examiner.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Toyomoto. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Toyomoto discloses an automatically lubricating device for a remotely operable bowden cable. The device includes an outer-wire holding cap (110) that receives the outer wire (13) of a bowden cable (C), wherein the outer-wire holding cap (110) is slidably fitted within an oil cover (105). A spring (S) is fitted between a flange (113) of the outer-wire holding cap (110) and a threaded end (104) of an oil cover attaching bracket (100).

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the biasing device comprises a spring disposed between the guide and the cable sleeve, wherein the spring surrounds a portion of the outer casing of the control cable. Such a construction provides a compact device. Toyomoto's spring (S) is fully spaced apart from the outer wire (13) of control cable (C), which results in a larger device. Thus, Toyomoto neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed structure.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The argument made above applies to this rejection as well. Nagano discloses an operating force transmission device for a bicycle. The device includes a receiving member (4A) that receives the outer sheath (2) of a control cable (A), wherein the receiving member (4A) is slidably fitted within a housing (3A). A spring (5) is fitted between an inner axial side of receiving member (4A) and an inner axial side of a spring holder (9). Nagano's spring (5) is fully spaced apart from the outer sheath (2) of control cable (A), which results in a larger device. Thus, Nagano neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed structure.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Takizawa. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The argument made above applies to this rejection as well. Takizawa discloses a bicycle brake operating device with a modulator. The device includes a cable tensioning bolt (48) that receives the outer casing (24B) of a brake cable (24) such that outer casing (24B) abuts against an annular abutment (65A). Tensioning bolt (48) is screwed onto a modulating member (47). Modulating member (47) extends through a preload cap (45) and screws into a preload nut (44) and an adjusting nut (43). Modulating member (47), preload cap (45), preload nut (44) and adjusting nut (43) are movably fitted within a tubular portion (32) of a mounting member (25) of a brake operating device (12). A spring (42) is disposed between adjusting nut (43) and an inner abutment surface (35) of tubular portion (32) for biasing modulating member (47), and hence cable tensioning bolt (48), to the right as shown in Fig. 5. Takizawa's spring (42) is fully spaced apart from the outer casing (24B) of the brake cable (24), which again results in a larger device. Thus, Takizawa neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed structure.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 USC §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

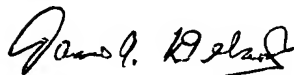
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PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph at page 17 has been amended as follows:

A cable connecting apparatus [for a control cable having an inner wire that slides within an outer casing] includes a cable sleeve adapted to receive the outer casing of [the] a control cable; a guide having a first end portion and a second end portion[, wherein the guide supports the cable sleeve so that the cable sleeve moves toward the first end portion and the second end portion] for movably supporting the cable sleeve; and a biasing device for biasing the cable sleeve toward the second end portion of the guide. [A connecting apparatus for a first control cable having a first inner wire that slides within a first outer casing and a second outer casing and a second control cable having a second inner wire that slides within a third outer casing and a fourth outer casing includes a bracket including a first support for supporting the first outer casing; a second support for supporting the second outer casing spaced apart from the first outer casing; a third support for supporting the third outer casing; and a fourth support for supporting the fourth outer casing spaced apart from the third outer casing. A] In another device, a connecting member is provided for connecting a portion of [the] a first inner wire located between [the] a first outer casing and [the] a second outer casing to a portion of [the] a second inner wire disposed between [the] a third outer casing and [the] a fourth outer casing, wherein the connector moves together with the first inner wire and the second inner wire. A position confirmation means [is provided that] allows the position of at least one of the first outer casing, the second outer casing, the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A connecting apparatus for a control cable having an inner wire that slides within an outer casing comprising:
a cable sleeve adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable;

a guide having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein the guide supports the cable sleeve so that the cable sleeve moves toward the first end portion and the second end portion;

[and]

a biasing device for biasing the cable sleeve toward the second end portion of the guide;
wherein the biasing device comprises a spring disposed between the guide and the cable sleeve; and

wherein the spring surrounds a portion of the outer casing of the control cable.

Claims 6 and 11 have been canceled.

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

19. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the second support and the fourth support are disposed inside the bracket casing, wherein the play confirmation means allows the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed based on the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing relative to the bracket casing, and wherein the bracket casing includes a window for viewing the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing.